Exhibit A-1

Allegheny County Department Of Court Records

Civil/Family Division Docket Report

GD-18-012	895								Aronson vs N	lational	Gas & I	Electric LLC
Filing Da	ate: 10/6/2018			3	Case Type:			Other T	ort			
Related Cases:					Court Type:			General Docket				
Consolidated Cases:				C	Current Status:			Second Amended Complaint				
Judge: No Judge					Jury Requested:			N				
Amount	In Dispute:		\$0									
						Parties						
LName			FName	мі	Туре	Address			Initial Service Completion			Attorney
Aronson			Mark	В	Plaintiff	2525 Greensburg Pike Pittsburgh PA 15221			•			
National Gas & Electric LLC					Defendant	12140 Wickchester Lane Suite 100 Houston TX 77009						
						Attorney						
LName		FName			MI				ress Phone			
Pro Se						Attorney						
					'	Non Litigant						
LName FName			МІ	Non Litigants MI Type Address			Phone					
						No Litigants Fo	und					
5" D D 1 T			Da alcat T	Docket Entrie	·S				Tilin.	- Dawler		
Filing Date	Docket Type			Docket T	ext						g Party	
	Second Amended Complaint			Of /D - ···	t f D d t	f D	L - \	· (D-f	04 /40	-	Aronson B	
	Verification of Service				Of (Request for Production of Documents) upon (Defendant) on 11/01/18.				-	Aronson B		
	Verification of Service				Of (Second Amended Complaint) upon (Defendant) on 11/01/18.					Aronson B		
	Request for Production of Documents					/D ()		14/04/40			Aronson B	
	18 Verification of Service			Of (Amen	Of (Amended Complaint) upon (Defendant) on 11/01/18.				-	Aronson B		
	O18 Amended Complaint				Of (Writ of Summons and Complaint) upon (Defendant) on 10/15/18.					Aronson B		
	/21/2018 Verification of Service			Of (Writ	of Summons and (Complaint) up	on (Def	endant) on 10/15/18	3.		Aronson B	
10/10/2018 Complaint									-	Aronson B		
10/6/2018	Praecipe fo	r Writ of S	Summons								Mark	Aronson B
						Judgments Agai	nst					

--Events Schedule--

Case 2:18-cv-01531-AJS Document 1-2 Filed 11/14/18 Page 3 of 71

Event Scheduled	Event Date & Time	Room Number	Judge/Hearing Officer		
No Information Found					

Exhibit A-2

MARK B. ARONSON, CIVIL DIVISION

GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. GD 18-

VS.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

Defendant. PRAECIPE FOR WRIT OF SUMMONS

IN CIVIL ACTION

Filed PROSE by

Mark B. Aronson

2525 Greensburg Pike Pittsburgh, PA 15221

412 243-2224

MARK B. ARONSON, : CIVIL DIVISION

: GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff.

:

: Civil Action No. GD 18-

VS :

:

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

:

Defendant. :

PRAECIPE FOR WRIT OF SUMMONS IN CIVIL ACTION

To Hon. Michael McGeever, Director Office of Court Records:

Please issue a writ of summons in civil action in the above captioned matter.

The address of the Defendant is 12140 Wickchester Lane, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77009.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark B. Aronson Plaintiff PROSE

Exhibit A-3

MARK B. ARONSON, CIVIL DIVISION

GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. GD 18-012895

VS.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

Defendant. COMPLAINT IN CIVIL ACTION

Filed PROSE by

Mark B. Aronson

2525 Greensburg Pike Pittsburgh, PA 15221

412 243-2224

MARK B. ARONSON, : CIVIL DIVISION

: GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff.

:

: Civil Action No. GD 18-

vs : 012895

:

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

:

Defendant.

NOTICE TO DEFEND

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you. YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE OR KNOW A LAWYER, THEN YOU SHOULD GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP:

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE
The Allegheny County Bar Association,
11th Floor Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Telephone: (412) 261-5555

MARK B. ARONSON, : CIVIL DIVISION

: GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff,

:

VS.

: Civil Action No. GD 18-

: 012895

:

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

:

Defendant. :

COMPLAINT IN CIVIL ACTION

- At all times material, Plaintiff was and is a resident of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and a residential customer of Duquesne Light Company at his condominium unit located at 2525 Greensburg Pike, Borough of Churchill, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15221.
- At all times material, Defendant was and is a registered, certified supplier of electric energy within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 3. Defendant's offices are located in Houston, Texas 77009 at 12140 Wickchester Lane, Suite 100.
- 4. At all times material, Defendant solicits prospective subscribers in the Greater Pittsburgh area for its electric service by

- telemarketing.
- At all times material, Plaintiff subscribed from Verizon for two residential telephone lines, one of which was a dedicated facsimile line.
- 6. Plaintiff's residential telephone numbers are 412-243-2224 and 412-371-9787.
- 7. The subject matter of this Complaint in Civil Action is three prerecorded unsolicited commercial telemarketing telephone calls placed to and received at Plaintiff's residential lines [i.e. the first received at 412-371-9787 at 5:57 P.M. on October 3, 2018 from spoofed telephone number 412-371-1932, the second received at 412-371-9787 at 1:35 P.M. on October 4, 2018 from spoofed telephone number 412-371-6504 and the third received at 412-243-2224 at 6:54 P.M. on October 4, 2018 from spoofed telephone number 412-206-4905].
- 8. These prerecord telephone calls were initiated by or upon behalf of Defendant intentionally, willfully and knowingly, for the purpose of soliciting Plaintiff to subscribe for residential electric service supplied by Defendant.
- Each call was initiated to Plaintiff's residential telephone in violation of the federal Telephone Consumer Protection Act as amended, as is more fully discussed below.

- 10.As a result of Plaintiff's experiences with Defendant as set forth above, Plaintiff believes and avers that it is the practice of Defendant to ascertain during but before the end of each telemarketing call initiated by or upon its behalf, whether the party solicited by or upon behalf of Defendant qualifies to purchase electricity supplied by Defendant, and if the called party qualifies and so desires to become a customer of Defendant, to have a return telephone call placed from Defendant's telephone number [as per Plaintiff's telephone Caller-ID] "SAYRE 570-731-0236."
- 11.During the third prerecorded call to Plaintiff's residence, he expressed an interest in subscribing for electric energy to be supplied by Defendant to his residence.
- 12.He was provided with verification number 003194593; he received a return call from Defendant at 7:27PM that evening.
- 13.Plaintiff applied for an account and was told that an account would be set up for him with the information to be mailed to him.
- 14.Plaintiff stated that he was going to be heading out of town and requested the account registration documentation to be emailed to him to his email address mellon99@aol.com.
- 15.On October 5, 2018 at 11:32 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, he

- received an email at his email address mellon99@aol.com from NG&E-Web-Enroll@NG&E.com providing among other things "Confirmation #: 211089" and including the terms of service.
- 16.Plaintiff reviewed the Disclolsure Statement and Terms of

 Service and determined that he could not agree to them because
 they required disputes to be decided by arbitration only, and
 because he would not be permitted to participate in any class
 action litigation.
- 17.Plaintiff telephoned Defendant's customer service department at 2:30 P.M. on October 5, 2018 and was transferred to an individual who processed Plaintiff's cancellation and provided him with a cancellation number.
- 18. It is the *initiation itself* of the prerecorded commercial telephone solicitation call itself that violates the TCPA.
- 19. The ringing of the recipient's residential telephone is sufficient evidence that the offending call had been initiated, i.e. placed.
- 20. The prerecorded commercial telephone call need not be answered at the recipient's residence.
- 21. When a person receives a prerecorded commercial solicitation from a telemarketer on his/her residential telephone, the very instant that he/she answers the telephone and hears

words at the other end of the line, the TCPA and case law provide that the initiator of the call and his principal, agents, servants and employees, if relevant, each become liable to the Plaintiff for the payment of statutory damages for violating the TCPA.

- 22. If Defendant or its marketing agents recorded any of its prerecorded solicitations of Plaintiff, Defendant is requested to save the original audio media and any transcripts, so that Plaintiff can seek same in discovery.
- 23. The applicable law pertaining to private civil actions that may be filed for violation of the Regulations of the Federal Communication Commission resulting from a prerecorded unsolicited commercial telemarketing call to a residential telephone line has been promulgated under 47 USC 227(b) and these sections of the Regulations: 47 CFR 64.1200(b)(1), 47 CFR 64.1200(b)(2), 47 USC 227(b)(3), and 47 CFR 64.1601(e)(i).
- 24. Each prerecorded incoming commercial telephone solicitation violated five sections of the TCPA in these particulars for the following reasons:

- A. Each call delivered a prerecorded message to Plaintiff
 residential telephone line using a prerecorded voice without
 Plaintiff's consent, in violation of 47 CFR 64.1200(a)(2):
- B. Each call delivered a prerecorded message
 without providing sufficient information about
 the caller, in violation of 47 CFR 64.1200(b)(1);
- C. Each call delivered a prerecorded message
 without providing a telephone number for the caller, in
 violation of 47 CFR 64.1200(b)(2);
- D. Each call failed to provide caller identification

 information that could be used to place a do-not-call request,

 in violation of 47 CFR 64.1601(e)(i): and
 - E. Each call violated the TCPA prohibition against the spoofing of the "initiating" telephone number.
- 25. Your Honorable Court has subject matter jurisdiction and personal jurisdiction over Defendant, as per the opinions issued in these two civil actions filed in Your Honorable Court pertaining to private actions filed for money

damages for alleged violations of the TCPA:
Aronson v. Fax.Com, Inc., 149 P.L.J. 157,
51 Pa.D.& C.4th 421 (2001) and Abramson v. Royal

Holidays, LLC. et al, Civil Action No. AR05-008412.

- 26. Under the TCPA, Plaintiff is entitled to be awarded the sum of five hundred dollars for each violation contained in each incoming call [see Charvat v. Ryan et al, 1568 Ohio App. 3d 778, 2006-Ohio-3705] and the TCPA authorizes Your Honorable Court to treble the sum of five hundred dollars to fifteen hundred dollars per violation when the call had been willfully initiated. [See Aronson v. Florida Friendly Financial Services, LLC, Civil Action AR09-011559 of record in Your
- 27. There were 15 violations of the TCPA in the three above referenced telemarketing telephone solicitations.

Honorable Court].

28. Fifteen violations of the TCPA, each entitling Plaintiff to claim and enabling Your Honorable Court to award statutory damages in the amount of fifteen hundred dollars, amounts to \$22,500.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment in his favor and

against Defendant in the amount of \$22,500.00 [computed as treble \$500.00 (or \$1,500.00) per violation of the TCPA in each of the three telemarketing calls to Plaintiff's residential telephone numbers as above described, which amount is in not in excess of the monetary jurisdiction of the Arbitration Division of Your Honorable Court, and he seeks reimbursement of court costs of record pursuant to Local Rule 253 reproduced as the last page of this document.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark B. Aronson, Plaintiff PROSE

VERIFICATION

AND NOW this 13th day of October 2018 comes Mark B. Aronson, Plaintiff PROSE, pursuant to 18 PA C S Section 4904, and verifies to the best of his knowledge, information and belief that the facts set forth in the foregoing Complaint in Civil Action are true and correct.

s/ Mark B. Aronson

LOCAL RULE 253 ON COSTS UPON SETTLEMENT

(1) Costs After Judgment.

Costs shall be taxed by the Prothonotary. Objections shall be presented to the Motions Judge or, if the case was tried, to the Trial Judge.

(2) Costs After Settlement.

In Civil Division cases, absent an agreement to the contrary at the time of a settlement requiring the payment of monetary damages, the paying party or parties shall reimburse the recipient the record costs incurred by that party. Where there are multiple payors, the reimbursement of record costs shall be prorated.

Exhibit A-4

MARK B. ARONSON, CIVIL DIVISION

GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. GD 18-012895

VS.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

Defendant. TYPE OF PLEADING"

Verification of Service on

October 15, 2018

Filed PROSE by

Mark B. Aronson

2525 Greensburg Pike Pittsburgh, PA 15221

412 243-2224

MARK B. ARONSON, : CIVIL DIVISION

: GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff. :

:

: Civil Action No. GD 18-

vs : 012895

.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

:

Defendant.

VERIFICATION OF SERVICE

AND NOW this 22nd day of October 2018 comes Mark B. Aronson, Plaintiff PROSE, who verifies to the best of his knowledge, information and belief and as is evidenced by the pages which follow that on October 15, 2018 he served duplicate originals of the Writ of Summons in Civil Action and his Complaint in Civil Action upon Defendant by certified mail. A duplicate original of the Writ of Summons in Civil Action is attached hereto.

s/ Mark B. Aronson

MARK B. ARONSON

2525 Greensburg Pike Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15221 Telephone Number 412-243-2224

October 13, 2018

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested Article Number 7015 1660 0000 4892 2658

National Gas & Electric, LLC 12140 Wickchester Lane, Suite 100 Houston, Texas 77009

> Re: Mark B. Aronson vs National Gas & Electric, LLC

> > Civil Action No. GD18-012895

Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, PA

Enclosed herein is a true and correct duplicate original of the Writ of Summons in Civil Action and my Complaint in Civil Action.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Aronson Plaintiff

Enclosures



SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. Article Addressed to: NATIONAL GAS + Electer, W. 12140 Wickchesty LWL SUITE 100 HOUSTIN, TIXAS 1700	A. Signature B. Received by (Printed Name) D. Is delivery address different fruit fyes, enter delivery address	☐ Agent ☐ Addressee C. Date of Delivery 10 ☐ 5 ☐ 6
9590 9402 4371 8190 2511 35 2. Article Number (<i>Transfer from service label</i>)	3. Service Type Adult Signature Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Certified Mail® Certified Mail Restricted Delivery Collect on Delivery Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery	☐ Priority Mail Express® ☐ Registered Mail™ ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
7015 1660 0000 4892 2658	Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery Insured Mail sured Mail Restricted Delivery ver \$500)	☐ Signature Confirmation™ ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

WRIT OF SUMMONS IN CIVIL ACTION NOTICE OF SUIT TO SHERIFF OF ALLEGHENY CO TO DEFENDANT(S): You are notified that the plaintiff(s) has/have commenced an action against you which you are required to Defend.

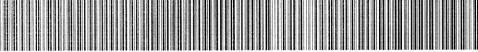
Michael McGeever, Director, Department of Court Records

Date 10/7/2018	
Returnable	1/5/2019

WRIT OF SUMMONS IN CIVIL ACTION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVAN

	and the second s
Plaintiff(s) Aronson , Mark B	Case Number: GD - 18 - 012895
	Type of pleading: PRAECIPE FOR WRIT OF SUMMONS
	Filed on behalf of: Mark B Aronson
	Mark B Aronson (Name of the filing party)
Vs Defendant(s) National Gas & Electric LLC	Counsel of Record X Individual, If Pro Se
	Name, Address and Telephone Number: Mark B Aronson 2525 Greensburg Pike Pittsburgh, PA 15221
	Attorney's State ID: PROSE



Michael McGeever, Director, Department of Court

Subject: USPS® Item Delivered, Front Desk/Reception 70151660000048922658

Date 10/15/2018 5:01:50 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: auto-reply@usps.com

To: mba9999@aol.com

USPS Logo

Hello National Gas,

Your item was delivered to the front desk or reception area at 3:51 pm on October 15, 2018 in HOUSTON, TX 77079.

Tracking Number: 70151660000048922658

Delivered, Front Desk/Reception

Latest Displayable Event Description>

Tracking & Delivery Options

My Account

Visit <u>USPS Tracking</u>® to check the most up-to-date status of your package. Sign up for <u>Informed Delivery</u>® to digitally preview the address side of your incoming letter-sized mail and manage your packages scheduled to arrive soon! To update how frequently you receive emails from USPS, log in to your <u>USPS.com</u> account.

Want regular updates on your package? Set up text alerts.

Image of Facebook social media icon

Image of Pinterest social icon.

Image of Youtube social media icon.

Image of Twitter social media con.

Download USPS Mobile®

Exhibit A-5

MARK B. ARONSON, CIVIL DIVISION

GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. GD 18-012895

VS.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

Defendant. AMENDED COMPLAINT IN CIVIL

ACTION

Filed PROSE by

Mark B. Aronson

2525 Greensburg Pike Pittsburgh, PA 15221

412 243-2224

MARK B. ARONSON, : CIVIL DIVISION

: GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff.

:

: Civil Action No. GD 18-

vs : 012895

.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

:

Defendant. :

NOTICE TO DEFEND

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you. YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE OR KNOW A LAWYER, THEN YOU SHOULD GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP:

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE
The Allegheny County Bar Association,
11th Floor Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Telephone: (412) 261-5555

MARK B. ARONSON, : CIVIL DIVISION

: GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff,

:

VS.

: Civil Action No. GD 18-

: 012895

:

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

:

Defendant. :

AMENDED COMPLAINT IN CIVIL ACTION

- At all times material, Plaintiff was and is a resident of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and a residential customer of Duquesne Light Company at his condominium unit located at 2525 Greensburg Pike, Borough of Churchill, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15221.
- At all times material, Defendant was and is a registered, certified supplier of electric energy within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 3. Defendant's offices are located in Houston, Texas 77009 at 12140 Wickchester Lane, Suite 100.
- 4. At all times material, Defendant solicits prospective subscribers in the Greater Pittsburgh area for its electric service by

- telemarketing.
- At all times material, Plaintiff subscribed from Verizon for two residential telephone lines, one of which was a dedicated facsimile line.
- 6. Plaintiff's residential telephone numbers are 412-243-2224 and 412-371-9787.
- 7. The subject matter of this Complaint in Civil Action is four prerecorded unsolicited commercial telemarketing telephone calls placed to and received at Plaintiff's residential lines [i.e. the first received at 412-371-9787 at 5:57 P.M. on October 3, 2018 from spoofed telephone number 412-371-1932, the second received at 412-371-9787 at 1:35 P.M. on October 4, 2018 from spoofed telephone number 412-371-6504, the third received at 412-243-2224 at 6:54 P.M. on October 4, 2018 from spoofed telephone number 412-206-4905, and the fourth received at 412-243-2224 on October 29, 2018 at 5:16 P.M. from spoofed telephone umber "+1000000000000"].
- 8. These prerecord telephone calls were initiated by or upon behalf of Defendant intentionally, willfully and knowingly, for the purpose of soliciting Plaintiff to subscribe for residential electric service supplied by Defendant.
- 9. Each call was initiated to Plaintiff's residential telephone in

- violation of the federal Telephone Consumer Protection Act as amended, as is more fully discussed below.
- 10.As a result of Plaintiff's experiences with Defendant as set forth above, Plaintiff believes and avers that it is the practice of Defendant to ascertain during but before the end of each telemarketing call initiated by or upon its behalf, whether the party solicited by or upon behalf of Defendant qualifies to purchase electricity supplied by Defendant, and if the called party qualifies and so desires to become a customer of Defendant, to have a return telephone call placed from Defendant's telephone numbers [as per Plaintiff's telephone Caller-ID] "SAYRE 570-731-0236" and "5-428-746-2555."
- 11.During the third prerecorded call to Plaintiff's residence, he expressed an interest in subscribing for electric energy to be supplied by Defendant to his residence.
- 12.He was provided with verification number 003194593; he received a return call from Defendant at 7:27PM that evening.
- 13.Plaintiff applied for an account and was told that an account would be set up for him with the information to be mailed to him.
- 14. Plaintiff stated that he was going to be heading out of town and requested the account registration documentation to be emailed

to him to his email address mellon99@aol.com.

- 15.On October 5, 2018 at 11:32 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, he received an email at his email address mellon99@aol.com from NG&E-Web-Enroll@NG&E.com providing among other things "Confirmation #: 211089" and including the terms of service.">NG&E-Web-Enroll@NG&E.com providing the terms of service.
- 16.Plaintiff reviewed the Disclosure Statement and Terms of
 Service and determined that he could not agree to them because
 they required disputes to be decided by arbitration only, and
 because he would not be permitted to participate in any class
 action litigation.
- 17.Plaintiff telephoned Defendant's customer service department at 2:30 P.M. on October 5, 2018 and was transferred to an individual who processed Plaintiff's cancellation and provided him with a cancellation number.
- 18. On the fourth call, Plaintiff followed the prompt, and this resulted in Plaintiff conversing with a person who identified himself as Sean Wilson at Defendant.
- 19. There has been a mass shooting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 27, 2018 and Plaintiff had been heading out the door to attend a community-wide religious service, and he asked Mr. Wilson to call him the next day, which Mr. Wilson did

- at 12:18 P.M.
- 20. Mr. Wilson gave Plaintiff permission to record their conversation.
- 21. It is the *initiation itself* of the prerecorded commercial telephone solicitation call itself that violates the TCPA.
- 22. The ringing of the recipient's residential telephone is sufficient evidence that the offending call had been initiated, i.e. placed.
- 23. The prerecorded commercial telephone call need not be answered at the recipient's residence.
- 24. When a person receives a prerecorded commercial solicitation from a telemarketer on his/her residential telephone, the very instant that he/she answers the telephone and hears words at the other end of the line, the TCPA and case law provide that the initiator of the call and his principal, agents, servants and employees, if relevant, each become liable to the Plaintiff for the payment of statutory damages for violating the TCPA.
- 25. If Defendant or its marketing agents recorded any of its prerecorded solicitations of Plaintiff, Defendant is requested to save the original audio media and any transcripts, so that Plaintiff can seek same in discovery.

- 26. The applicable law pertaining to private civil actions that may be filed for violation of the Regulations of the Federal Communication Commission resulting from a prerecorded unsolicited commercial telemarketing call to a residential telephone line has been promulgated under 47 USC 227(b) and these sections of the Regulations: 47 CFR 64.1200(b)(1), 47 CFR 64.1200(b)(2), 47 USC 227(b)(3), and 47 CFR 64.1601(e)(i).
- 27. Each prerecorded incoming commercial telephone solicitation violated five sections of the TCPA in these particulars for the following reasons:
 - A. Each call delivered a prerecorded message to Plaintiff
 residential telephone line using a prerecorded voice without
 Plaintiff's consent, in violation of 47 CFR 64.1200(a)(2):
 - B. Each call delivered a prerecorded message
 without providing sufficient information about
 the caller, in violation of 47 CFR 64.1200(b)(1);
 - C. Each call delivered a prerecorded message
 without providing a telephone number for the caller, in
 violation of 47 CFR 64.1200(b)(2);

- D. Each call failed to provide caller identification

 information that could be used to place a do-not-call request,

 in violation of 47 CFR 64.1601(e)(i): and
 - E. Each call violated the TCPA prohibition against the spoofing of the "initiating" telephone number.
- 28. Your Honorable Court has subject matter jurisdiction and personal jurisdiction over Defendant, as per the opinions issued in these two civil actions filed in Your Honorable Court pertaining to private actions filed for money damages for alleged violations of the TCPA:
 Aronson v. Fax.Com, Inc., 149 P.L.J. 157,
 51 Pa.D.& C.4th 421 (2001) and Abramson v. Royal Holidays, LLC. et al, Civil Action No. AR05-008412.
- 29. Under the TCPA, Plaintiff' is entitled to be awarded the sum of five hundred dollars for each violation contained in each incoming call [see Charvat v. Ryan et al, 1568 Ohio App. 3d 778, 2006-Ohio-3705] and the TCPA authorizes Your Honorable Court to treble the sum of five hundred dollars to

- fifteen hundred dollars per violation when the call had been willfully initiated. [See Aronson v. Florida Friendly Financial Services, LLC, Civil Action AR09-011559 of record in Your Honorable Court].
- 30. There were 20 violations of the TCPA in the four above referenced telemarketing telephone solicitations.
- 31. Twenty violations of the TCPA, each entitling Plaintiff to claim and enabling Your Honorable Court to award statutory damages in the amount of fifteen hundred dollars, amounts to \$30,000.00.
- 32. In addition to the allegations set forth above, Plaintiff had given formal notice to defendant that he did not want defendant to telemarket him, and he had provided his name, address and telephone numbers to Defendant as of October 15, 2018 by service of the original Complaint in Civil Action upon Defendant.
- 33. The applicable law pertaining to private civil actions that may be filed for violation of the Regulations of the Federal Communication Commission pertaining to "Do-Not-Call" requests made to a telemarketer by the recipient of an unsolicited commercial telemarketing call received at the

- recipient's residential telephone line is promulgated under 47 USC 227(b), 227(c)5), its Regulations, and see also and these sections of the Regulations: 47 CFR 64.1200(b)(1), 47 CFR 64.1200(b)(2), 47 USC 227(b)(3), and 47 CFR 64.1601(e)(i)
- 34. Section 227(c)(5) of the TCPA creates this private right of action and provides in part for violations of the FCC regulations promulgated under section 227(c)(2): "(5) Private right of action "A person who has received more than one telephone call within any 12-month period by or upon behalf of the same entity in violation of the regulations prescribed under this subsection may, if otherwise permitted by the laws or rules of court of a State bring in an appropriate court of that State- "(B) an action to recover . . . " monetary damages for each violation as set out in the TCPA and the Regulations.
- 35. It is the case law of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, as set out in a certain opinion authored by Hon. R. Stanton Wettick, Jr. and filed of record on March 24, 2005 at Civil Action Number AR04 004777 that the party upon whose behalf the live call has been placed has a reasonable time to comply with the subscriber's request to be placed on its do-not-call list.

- 36. This interpretation of the scope of the TCPA private remedy is consistent with Worsham v. Nationwide Insurance Co., 772 A.2d 868 (Md. Ct. Spec. App. 2011) and cases cited therein.
- 37. The fourth telemarketing call, made by or upon behalf of the Defendant was knowingly and intentionally placed.
- 38. Defendant had had 14 days time to remove Plaintiff's name and residential telephone numbers between October 15 and October 29, 2018.
- 39. Under the TCPA, and applicable Regulations, Plaintiff is entitled to be awarded for the subject prerecorded fourth incoming telemarketing telephone call received after Defendant and its marketing agents had had enough time to remove Plaintiff's name and residential telephone number from its database, the sum of five hundred dollars for each violation [see Charvat v. Ryan et al, 1568 Ohio App. 3d 778, 2006-Ohio- 3705] and the TCPA authorizes Your Honorable Court to treble the sum of five hundred dollars to fifteen hundred dollars per violation when the call had been willfully placed.
- 40. Therefore, Plaintiff has standing to seek statutory

damages in an additional amount of \$1500.00 for this telemarketing call.

41. The authorized federal statutory damages which Plaintiff has the right to assert as result of the evets set forth above is thirty-one thousand five hundred dollars.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment in his favor and against Defendant in the amount of thirty-one thousand five hundred (\$31,500.00) dollars which amount is within the jurisdiction of the Arbitration Division of Your Honorable Court, and he demands costs as per Local Rule of Court 253 which is cited at the end of this Amended Complaint.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark B. Aronson, Plaintiff

VERIFICATION

AND NOW this 1st day of November 2018 comes Mark B. Aronson, Plaintiff PROSE, pursuant to 18 PA C S Section 4904, and verifies to the best of his knowledge, information and belief that the facts set forth in the foregoing AmendedComplaint in Civil Action are true and correct.

s/ Mark B. Aronson

LOCAL RULE 253 ON COSTS UPON SETTLEMENT

(1) Costs After Judgment.

Costs shall be taxed by the Prothonotary. Objections shall be presented to the Motions Judge or, if the case was tried, to the Trial Judge.

(2) Costs After Settlement.

In Civil Division cases, absent an agreement to the contrary at the time of a settlement requiring the payment of monetary damages, the paying party or parties shall reimburse the recipient the record costs incurred by that party. Where there are multiple payors, the reimbursement of record costs shall be prorated.

Exhibit A-6

MARK B. ARONSON, CIVIL DIVISION

GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. GD 18-012895

VS.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

Defendant. TYPE OF PLEADING"

Verification of Service of AMENDED COMPLAINT on

November 1, 2018

Filed PROSE by

Mark B. Aronson

2525 Greensburg Pike Pittsburgh, PA 15221

412 243-2224

MARK B. ARONSON, : CIVIL DIVISION

: GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff.

:

: Civil Action No. GD 18-

vs : 012895

:

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

:

Defendant.

VERIFICATION OF SERVICE

AND NOW this 1st day of November 2018 comes Mark B. Aronson, Plaintiff PROSE, who verifies to the best of his knowledge, information and belief and as is evidenced by the page which follows that today, November 1, 2018, he served a duplicate original of his Amended Complaint upon Defendant by email to Defendant's Counsel, Attorney Ezra Church at the Morgan Lewis Law Firm in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

s/ Mark B. Aronson

Subject: Re: Aronson v. National Gas & Electric, LLC, CCP Allegheny

County, Civ. Action No. GD 18-012895

Date: 11/1/2018 11:49:42 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: mba9999@aol.com

To: ezra.church@morganlewis.com

Sent from the Internet (Details)

Hi Ezra:

Thank you very much for your email. I have electronically submitted my Amended Complaint for filing.

My letter to you and the Amended Complaint are both attached.

Are you aware that I had faxed the Law Department several times starting October 29?

Sincerely,

Mark

In a message dated 11/1/2018 11:23:50 AM Eastern Standard Time, ezra.church@morganlewis.com writes:

Mark-

Following up on our discussion this morning, I represent National Gas

& Electric ("NGE") in the above litigation. As discussed, I understand that you will agree to an extension of the time for NGE to respond or otherwise plead through and until Nov. 14, 2018 (when NGE expects to remove the case to federal court). In addition, I understand that you intend to file an amended complaint, and this confirms that I am authorized to accept service of the amended complaint.

Regards,

Ezra

Ezra D. Church, CIPP Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP 1701 Market Street | Philadelphia, PA 19103-2921 Email: ezra.church@morganlewis.com

Direct: +1.215.963.5710 | Cell: +1.215.421.0399 | Main: +1.215.963.5000 | Fax: +1.215.963.5001

www.morganlewis.com

DISCLAIMER

This e-mail message is intended only for the personal use of the recipient(s) named above. This message may be an attorney-client communication and as such privileged and confidential and/or it may include attorney work product. If you are not an intended recipient, you may not review, copy or distribute this message. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail and delete the original message.

Exhibit A-7

MARK B. ARONSON, CIVIL DIVISION

GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. GD 18-012895

VS.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

Defendant. TYPE OF PLEADING"

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION

OF DOCUMENTS

Filed PROSE by

Mark B. Aronson

2525 Greensburg Pike Pittsburgh, PA 15221

412 243-2224

MARK B. ARONSON, : CIVIL DIVISION

: GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff.

:

: Civil Action No. GD 18-

vs : 012895

:

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

:

Defendant.

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

Pursuant to the provisions of Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure 4009.1, et seq, Plaintiff hereby makes 12 requests of each Defendant [set forth below the INSTRUCTIONS AND DEFINITIONS] to produce for inspection and copying the designated documents at 2525 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh, County of Allegheny, PA 15221 within forty-five (45) days after service of this request:

INSTRUCTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

The term "document" includes, by way of illustration only and not by way of limitation, the following, whether printed or reproduced by any process, or written and/or produced by hand: ledgers; notes; correspondence; communications of any nature; telegrams; memoranda; notebooks of any character; summaries or records of personal conversations; diaries; reports; publications; photographs; microfilm, microfiche, and similar media; minutes or records of meetings; transcripts of oral testimony or statements; reports and/or summaries of interviews; reports and/or summaries of investigations; court papers; brochures; pamphlets; press releases; drafts of, or revisions of drafts of, or translations of, any document; tape recordings; dictation belts; invoices; bills; accounting records; telephone toll records; and disks, tapes, and other magnetic or electronic information storage media. Any document or reproduction of a document bearing on any sheet or side thereof any marks, including by way of illustration only and not by way of limitation initials, stamped indicia, any comment or any notation of any character and not part of the original text, is to be considered a separate document.

- B. References to "you" or any named entity or individual include agents, employees, and attorneys of that person, whether or not acting within the scope of their authority; all other persons acting on behalf of the person referred to; and in the case of an entity, its merged or acquired predecessors.
- C. "Person" includes any individual, corporation, partnership, joint venture, firm, association, proprietorship, governmental agency, board, authority, or commission, or other entity.
- D. "Identify" or "identification," when used with respect to a person, means to state the name, last known address, telephone number, and if a corporation or other entity, the principal place of business of the person.
- E. "Identify" or "identification," when used with respect to a document, means to state the general nature of the document (i.e., letter, memorandum, etc.); the name of the author or originator; each addressee; all individuals designated on the document to receive a copy or otherwise known to have received a copy; the date, title, and general subject matter of the document; the present custodian of each copy thereof and the last known address of each such custodian; and the date of the making of the document.
- F. "Communication" includes every manner of means of disclosure, transfer, or exchange of information, and every disclosure, transfer or exchange of information, whether orally or by document or whether face-to-face, by telephone, mail, personal delivery, or otherwise.
- G. "Identify" or "identification," when used with respect to a communication, means to state the date of the communication; th type of communication (i.e., telephone conversation, meeting, etc.); the place where the communication took place; the identification of the person who made the communication; the identification of each person who received the communication and of each person present when it was made; and the subject matter discussed.
- H. "Relates" includes constitutes, describes, discusses, reflects, refers to, and logically pertains to.
- I. All documents within your possession, custody, or control or that of your agents, employees, and attorneys shall be produced. Without limitation of the term "control" as used in the preceding sentence, a document is deemed to be in your control if you have the right to secure the document or a copy thereof from another person having actual possession thereof.
- J. To the extent any paragraph is objected to, please set forth all reasons for your objection.

- K. If you prefer, you may provide legible copies of document that reflect all markings, notations, and highlighting on the originals.
- L. Documents to be produced shall be either (1) organized as they are kept in the usual course of business or (2) organized and labeled to correspond with the paragraphs of the request for production.
- M. The singular includes the plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders. The past tense includes the present tense where the clear meaning is not distorted by change of tense.
- N. To the extent that any document cannot be furnished, such documents as are available shall be supplied, together with a description of the documents not furnished and the reason for not furnishing them.
- O. "And" and "or" shall be interpreted to mean "and/or," so that said terms are given their broadest possible meaning.
- P. If you are producing a document, you need not provide the information specified in Paragraph E with respect to that document.
- Q. If any paragraph of this request is believed to be ambiguous or unduly burdensome, please contact the undersigned and an effort will be made to remedy the problem.

DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

1. All documents that mention or pertain to the plaintiff or to telephone numbers 412-243-2224 and 412-371-9787 or any symbol, number or other designation that is associated with Plaintiff. (Plaintiff agrees to keep these materials confidential.)

RESPONSE:

2. A copy of the script for any message used during any call to telephone numbers 412-243-2224 or 412-371-9787 on October 3, 2018, October 4, 2018 and October 29, 2018.

RESPONSE:

3. A copy of the actual recording for any message used during any call to telephone numbers 412-243-2224 on October 3, 2018, October 4, 2018 and October 29, 2018.

RESPONSE:

4. A description of the equipment used to initiate each telephone call identified in the Complaint in Civil Action.

RESPONSE:

5. Any insurance policies covering you for the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint in Civil Action.

RESPONSE:

6. Any insurance policies covering you for general liability.

RESPONSE:

7. Produce any notices that you have given any insurer regarding plaintiff's claim.

RESPONSE:

8. All documents (irrespective of date) relating to any claim made against you for violating any telemarketing law regulating telemarketing practices, or of committing a tort while engaging in telemarketing activities.

RESPONSE:

9. All documents (irrespective of date) which constitute or reflect communications between you and the Office of Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or any other law enforcement, consumer protection or regulatory agency, relating to telemarketing activities of your business.

RESPONSE:

10. All documents (irrespective of date) that discuss your compliance of lack of compliance with the Pennsylvania Telemarketer Registration Act, 73 P.S. sections 2241-2249.

RESPONSE:

11. All contracts and/or contract related documents in effect on October 3, 3018, October 4, 2018 and October 29 and 30, 2018 between you and each, any and every marketing company,

service, agent, etc.

RESPONSE:

12. All documents evidencing compliance with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania registration and telemarketing laws.

RESPONSE:

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: November 1, 2018 Mark B. Aronson,

Plaintiff

Exhibit A-8

MARK B. ARONSON, CIVIL DIVISION

GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. GD 18-012895

VS.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC, VERIFICATION OF SERVICE OF

SECOND AMENDED

COMPLAINT IN CIVIL ACTION

Filed PROSE by

Mark B. Aronson

2525 Greensburg Pike Pittsburgh, PA 15221

412 243-2224

MARK B. ARONSON, : CIVIL DIVISION

: GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff.

:

: Civil Action No. GD 18-

vs : 012895

.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

:

Defendant.

VERIFICATION OF SERVICE OF SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT

AND NOW THIS 1st day of November 2018 comes Mark B. Aronson pursuant to 18 PA CS Section 4904 and verifies to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, and as evidenced by the next page, that he served Defendant by email service upon Defendant's counsel.

s/ Mark B. Aronson

Subject: Mark Aronson v National Gas & Electric LLC GD18-012895

Date: 11/1/2018 4:27:52 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: mba9999@aol.com

To: ezra.church@morganlewis.com

Sent from the Internet (Details)

Ezra, I wanted this to reach you before your client may remove this civil action to federal court.

You as counsel for the Defendant are hereby served with a duplicate original of the Second Amended Complaint.

which is attached to this email.

Sincerely,

Mark Aronson
Plaintiff PROSE

Exhibit A-9

MARK B. ARONSON, CIVIL DIVISION

GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. GD 18-012895

VS.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

Defendant. TYPE OF PLEADING"

VERIFICATION OF SERVICE OF REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS on November 1, 2018

Filed PROSE by

Mark B. Aronson

2525 Greensburg Pike Pittsburgh, PA 15221

412 243-2224

MARK B. ARONSON, : CIVIL DIVISION

: GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff.

:

: Civil Action No. GD 18-

vs : 012895

.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

:

Defendant.

VERIFICATION OF SERVICE

AND NOW this 1st day of November 2018 comes Mark B. Aronson, Plaintiff PROSE, who verifies to the best of his knowledge, information and belief and as is evidenced by the page which follows that today, November 1, 2018, he served a duplicate original of his Request for Production of Documents upon Defendant by email to Defendant's Counsel, Attorney Ezra Church at the Morgan Lewis Law Firm in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

s/ Mark B. Aronson

Subject: Mark Aronson v National Gas & Electrtic, LLC Date: 11/1/2018 12:42:09 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: mba9999@aol.com

To: ezra.church@morganlewis.com

Sent from the Internet (Details)

Hi again Ezra:

The Office of Court Records has accepted my filing of my Amended Complaint and has spread it on the docket.

Next, I have electronically submitted my Requests for Production of Documents, a duplicate original of which is attached to this email.

I look forward to an amicable settlement.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Aronson Plaintiff PROSE

Exhibit A-10

MARK B. ARONSON, CIVIL DIVISION

GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. GD 18-012895

VS.

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

SECOND AMENDED
Defendant. COMPLAINT IN CIVIL ACTION

Filed PROSE by

Mark B. Aronson

2525 Greensburg Pike Pittsburgh, PA 15221

412 243-2224

MARK B. ARONSON, : CIVIL DIVISION

: GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff.

:

: Civil Action No. GD 18-

vs : 012895

:

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

:

Defendant.

NOTICE TO DEFEND

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you. YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE OR KNOW A LAWYER, THEN YOU SHOULD GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP:

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE
The Allegheny County Bar Association,
11th Floor Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Telephone: (412) 261-5555

MARK B. ARONSON, : CIVIL DIVISION

: GENERAL DOCKET

Plaintiff,

:

VS.

: Civil Action No. GD 18-

: 012895

:

NATIONAL GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC,

:

Defendant. :

SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT IN CIVIL ACTION

- At all times material, Plaintiff was and is a resident of Allegheny
 County, Pennsylvania, and a residential customer of Duquesne Light
 Company at his condominium unit located at 2525 Greensburg Pike,
 Borough of Churchill, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
 15221.
- At all times material, Defendant was and is a registered, certified supplier of electric energy within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 3. Defendant's offices are located in Houston, Texas 77009 at 12140 Wickchester Lane, Suite 100.
- 4. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference into this Complaint the entire Amended Complaint filed of record as though the same

were to be repeated at length herein.

COUNT ONE: CLAIM UNDER THE FEDERAL TCPA
WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment in his favor and
against Defendant in the amount of \$31,500.00 which amount is
not in excess of the monetary jurisdiction of the Arbitration Division
of Your Honorable Court, and he seeks reimbursement of court
costs of record pursuant to Local Rule 253 reproduced as the last
page of this document.

COUNT TWO: CLAIM UNDER

TWO PENNSYLVANIA STATUTES

- 5. The TELEMARKETER REGISTRATION ACT, Act 147 of 1996; 73 P.S. §§ 2241 2249, 73 P.S. §§ 2241 2249, provides among other things that a violation of the Federal TCPA is a violation of this Act, and at § 2246. Violations (a) Other law.—[that] A violation of this act is also a violation of the act of December 17, 1968, known as the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law.
- 6. The Amended Complaint alleges 21 violations of the TCPA.
- 7. The Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, 73

§201-9.2. states among other things

Private actions

- a) Any person who purchases or leases goods or services primarily for personal, family or household purposes and thereby suffers any ascertainable loss of money or property, real or person, as a result of the use or employment by any person of a method, act or practice declared unlawful by section 3 of this act, may bring a private action to recover actual damages or one hundred dollars (\$100), whichever is greater. The court may, in its discretion, award up to three times the actual damages sustained, but not less than one hundred dollars (\$100), and may provide such additional relief as it deems necessary or proper. The court may award to the plaintiff, in addition to other relief provided in this section, costs and reasonable attorney fees.
- 8. The United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania has held among other things in the case <u>Mark B.</u> <u>Aronson vs. Creditrust Corporation et al</u>, Ambrose J, 7 F Supp 2nd 589, (WD Pa 1998), that the clause "The court may award to the plaintiff, in addition to other relief provided in this section..." also includes an award of punitive damages.

9...Plaintiff has the right to seek statutory damages in the amount of \$100.00 per violation for each of the 21 violations, plus punitive damages, costs and attorneys fees.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands compensatory damages and punitive damages in his favor and against Defendant in an amount within the jurisdiction of the Arbitration Division of Your Honorable Court.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark B. Aronson, Plaintiff PROSE

VERIFICATION

AND NOW this 1st day of November 2018 comes Mark B. Aronson, Plaintiff PROSE, pursuant to 18 PA C S Section 4904, and verifies to the best of his knowledge, information and belief that the facts set forth in the foregoing Second Amended Complaint in Civil Action are true and correct.

s/ Mark B. Aronson

LOCAL RULE 253 ON COSTS UPON SETTLEMENT

(1) Costs After Judgment.

Costs shall be taxed by the Prothonotary. Objections shall be presented to the Motions Judge or, if the case was tried, to the Trial Judge.

(2) Costs After Settlement.

In Civil Division cases, absent an agreement to the contrary at the time of a settlement requiring the payment of monetary damages, the paying party or parties shall reimburse the recipient the record costs incurred by that party. Where there are multiple payors, the reimbursement of record costs shall be prorated.